

CLAIMS

- 5 1. In a communication network for electronic mail distribution between data
processor controlled interactive display terminals, a sending terminal comprising:
 means for storing data as a body and an attachment for sending with
 electronic mail;
 means for handshaking with a receiving terminal;
10 means for converting data in the sending terminal into a set of symbols
 that contain information regarding an object to which said data is linked;
 means for transmitting symbols to the receiving terminal without
 transferring data objects; and
 means for transferring the data objects in response to requests by the
15 receiving terminal.
2. The electronic mail communication network of claim 1 further comprising:
 means for determining from said symbols a size of their corresponding
 data object.
3. The electronic mail communication network of claim 2 further comprising means
20 responsive to a request from the receiving terminal to select a data object from the
 sending terminal.
4. The electronic mail communication network of claim 3 further comprising means
 responsive to a request from the receiving terminal to download a data object
 from the sending terminal.
- 25 5. The electronic mail communication network of claim 3 further comprising means
 responsive to a request from the receiving terminal to delete a data object from the
 sending terminal.
6. The electronic mail communication network of claim 2 wherein:
 said means for storing a symbol of said data object separately from its
30 corresponding data object is a separate file folder at the sending
 terminal.

7. The electronic mail communication network of claim 6 further comprising means for separately transmitting said symbol from said data object.
8. A method for fast communication with a symbol linked object based system in a communication network for electronic mail distribution between data processor controlled interactive display terminals including the steps of:
 - storing, at a sending terminal, data as a body and an attachment for sending with electronic mail;
 - handshaking, by the sending terminal with a receiving terminal;
 - converting data in the sending terminal into a set of symbols that contain information regarding an object to which said data is linked;
 - transmitting symbols from the sending terminal to the receiving terminal without transferring data objects; and
 - transferring the data objects from the sending terminal in response to requests by the receiving terminal.
9. The electronic mail communication network of claim 8 further including the step of determining from said symbols a size of their corresponding data object.
10. The electronic mail communication network of claim 9 further including the step, responsive to a request from the receiving terminal, of selecting a data object from the sending terminal.
11. The electronic mail communication network of claim 10 further including the step, responsive to a request from the receiving terminal, of downloading a data object from the sending terminal.
12. The electronic mail communication network of claim 10 further including the step, responsive to a request from the receiving terminal, of deleting a data object from the sending terminal.
13. The electronic mail communication network of claim 9 wherein:
 - said storing of a symbol of said data object is stored separately from its corresponding data object is in a separate file folder at the sending terminal.
14. The electronic mail communication network of claim 13 further including the step of separately transmitting said symbol from said data object.

15. A computer program having code recorded on a computer readable medium for fast communication with a symbol linked object based system in a communication network for electronic mail distribution between data processor controlled interactive display terminals, a sending terminal comprising:

- 5 means for storing data as a body and an attachment for sending with electronic mail;
- means for handshaking with a receiving terminal;
- means for converting data into a set of symbols that contain information regarding an object to which said data is linked;
- 10 means for transmitting to the receiving terminal without transferring data objects; and
- means for transferring the data objects in response to requests by the receiving terminal.

16. The electronic mail communication network of claim 15 further including means
15 for determining from said symbols a size of their corresponding data object.

17. The electronic mail communication network of claim 16 further including means responsive to a request from the receiving terminal for selecting a data object from the sending terminal.

18. The electronic mail communication network of claim 17 further including means
20 responsive to a request from the receiving terminal for downloading a data object from the sending terminal.

19. The electronic mail communication network of claim 17 further including means responsive to a request from the receiving terminal for deleting a data object from the sending terminal.

25 20. The electronic mail communication network of claim 16 wherein:
 said means for storing a symbol of said data object separately from its corresponding data object is a separate file folder at the sending terminal.